

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

MONTVALE HEALTH ASSOCIATES

Plaintiff

V.

UNITED PARCEL SERVICE OF

Defendant

Civil Action No. 12-3684(DRD)

**ORDER ON INFORMAL APPLICATION
& AMENDED PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER**

THIS MATTER having come before the Court for a telephone conference pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on November 27, 2012; and the parties having advised the Court that the administrative record has been exchanged and the plaintiff will disclose additional explanation of benefits forms but that both parties agree that this case will be ripe for dispositive motions; and the defendant requesting an extension of the January 11, 2013 dispositive motion deadline because the motion to consolidate will not be heard before that date; and the plaintiff consenting to the request as all of the cases that are the subject of the motion to consolidate share the single issue concerning manipulation under anesthesia; and the Court granting the request but reminding the parties that the deadline will not be further adjourned based on the status of the unresolved consolidation motion;

IT IS on this 27th day of November, 2012

ORDERED THAT the request to extend the dispositive motion deadlines is granted as set forth herein; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

I. COURT DATES

1. There shall be a telephone status conference before the Undersigned on **TO BE SET IF REQUESTED**. Plaintiff shall initiate the telephone call.
2.
 - a. There will be a settlement conference before the Undersigned on **TO BE SET IF REQUESTED**.
 - b. Trial counsel and clients with full settlement authority are required to appear at the conference and they shall confirm their availability to appear on the date of the conference by filing a letter no later than **TO BE SET**. Absent exceptional, unforeseen personal circumstances, the confirmed settlement conference will not be adjourned.

c. If the trial counsel **and** client with full settlement authority do not appear, the settlement conference may be cancelled or rescheduled and the noncompliant party and/or attorney may be sanctioned, which may include an assessment of the costs and expenses incurred by those parties who appeared as directed.

3. The final pretrial conference shall be conducted pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(d) on **March 19, 2013 at 11:30 a.m.** The Final Pretrial Conference will occur even if there are dispositive motions pending. The Court will adjourn the Final Pretrial conference only if the requesting party makes a compelling showing that manifest injustice would otherwise result absent adjournment.

II. DISCOVERY AND MOTION PRACTICE

4. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 disclosures, including summary plan description and administrative record, are to be exchanged on or before **deadline passed on August 30, 2012.**

5. Discovery necessary to engage in meaningful settlement discussions: **none.**

6. If permitted under the law, the parties may serve interrogatories limited to **25** single questions including subparts and requests for production of documents on or before **deadline passed on September 27, 2012**, which shall be responded to no later than **deadline passed on October 30, 2012.**

7. If permitted under the governing law, the number of depositions to be taken by each side shall not exceed **2**. No objections to questions posed at depositions shall be made other than as to lack of foundation, form or privilege. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 32(d) (3) (A). No instruction not to answer shall be given unless a privilege is implicated. The depositions are to be completed no later than **December 14, 2012.**

8. If permitted under the governing law, fact discovery is to remain open through **December 14, 2012.** No discovery is to be issued or engaged in beyond that date, except upon application and for good cause shown.

9. Counsel shall confer in-person or via telephone in a good faith attempt to informally resolve any and all discovery disputes before seeking the Court's intervention. Should such informal effort fail to resolve the dispute, the matter shall be brought to the Court's attention via a joint letter that sets forth: (a) the request, (b) the response; (c) efforts to resolve the dispute; (d) why the complaining party believes the information is relevant and why the responding party's response continues to be deficient; and (e) why the responding party believes the response is sufficient. No further submissions regarding the dispute may be submitted without leave of Court. If necessary, the Court will thereafter schedule a telephone conference to resolve the dispute.

No discovery motion or motion for sanctions for failure to provide discovery shall be filed before utilizing the procedures set forth in these paragraphs without prior leave of Court.

Any unresolved discovery disputes (other than those that arise during depositions) must be brought before the Court no later than **deadline passed on November 13, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.** The Court will not entertain applications concerning discovery matters, informally or otherwise, after this date. If an unresolved dispute arises at a deposition, then the parties shall contact the Chambers of the

Undersigned for assistance during the deposition. Failure to seek court-intervention during depositions for deposition disputes shall constitute a waiver of the right to seek relief.

10. Any motion to amend pleadings or join parties must be filed by **deadline passed on October 31, 2012.**

11. Simultaneous cross motions for summary judgment must be filed no later than **February 8, 2013** and must be comply with Local Rule 7.1. No pretrial dispositive motions will be entertained after that date. Any responses shall be submitted no later than **February 24, 2013.** No replies are permitted. The return date shall be **March 4, 2013** before the Dickinson R. Debevoise. All dispositive motions must comply with Local Rule 7.1 and 56.1. His Honor's chambers will advise the parties if oral argument will be required.

III. EXPERTS

12. If permitted under the governing law, all affirmative expert reports shall be delivered by **deadline passed on November 1, 2012.**

13. If permitted under the governing law, all responding expert reports shall be delivered by **December 1, 2012 .**

14. a. All expert reports are to be in the form and content as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B). No expert shall testify at trial as to any opinions or base those opinions on facts not substantially disclosed in the experts report.

b. If permitted under the governing law, all expert depositions shall be completed by **December 14, 2012.**

IV. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

15. The final pretrial conference shall be conducted pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(d) on **March 19, 2013 at 11:30 a.m.** The final pretrial conference will occur even if dispositive motions are pending. The Court will adjourn the Final Pretrial conference only if the requesting party makes a compelling showing that manifest injustice would otherwise result absent adjournment.

16. Not later than **20 working days** before the pretrial conference, the parties shall exchange copies of all proposed trial exhibits. Each exhibit shall be pre-marked with an exhibit number conforming to the party's exhibit list.

17. All counsel are directed to assemble at the office of Plaintiff's counsel not later than **ten (10) days** before the pretrial conference to prepare the proposed Joint Final Pretrial Order in the form and content required by the Court. Plaintiff's counsel shall prepare the Joint Pretrial Order and shall submit it to all other counsel for approval and execution.

18. With respect to non-jury trials, each party shall submit to the District Judge and to opposing counsel proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, trial briefs and any hypothetical questions to be put to an expert witness on direct examination.

19. The original of the Final Pretrial Order shall be delivered to the CHAMBERS of the Undersigned no later than **March 12, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.** All counsel are responsible for the timely submission of the Pretrial Order.

20. The Court expects to engage in meaningful settlement discussions at the final pretrial conference. Therefore, trial counsel who actually has full settlement authority must attend the conference and clients or other persons with full settlement authority must be available by telephone.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

21. The Court may from time to time schedule conferences as may be required, either sua sponte or at the request of a party.

22. Since all dates set forth herein are established with the assistance and knowledge of counsel, there will be no extensions except for good cause shown and by leave of Court, even with consent of all counsel. Any request to extend any deadline or to adjourn a court event shall be made no later than three days before the scheduled date and shall reflect: (1) the good cause the requesting party believes supports the extension or adjournment and (2) whether or not all parties consent to the request. Absent unforeseen emergent circumstances, the Court will not entertain requests to extend deadlines that have passed as of the date of the request.

23. A copy of every pleading, document or written communication with the Court shall be served on all other parties to the action. Any such communication which does not recite or contain a certification of such service may be disregarded by the Court.

24. Absent permission from Chambers, communications to the Court by facsimile will not be accepted. All communications to the Court shall be in writing or by telephone conference.

25. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF THIS ORDER MAY RESULT IN SANCTIONS.**

s/Patty Shwartz

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE